



Contents

	page
Chairman's message	1
July Zoom Presentation Review	2
Summer Social / September Plaza Meeting	3
Selection of Photographs from the Photographic Group	4
Update for Day Trips and the Lunch Club	5
A Few Words from your Speaker Seeker	6
This month's Recipe	7

Message from your Chairman

Soon, oh so soon we will be back to having face to face, person to person meetings and social events, and much sooner than you might think:-

Summer Social this year will be a “drop-in” Coffee Morning in the courtyard area of the Kings Arms on Thrapston High Street from **10.30 till 12 noon on Friday 20th August**. Your Committee will be there to meet, greet and welcome you. Coffee can be purchased from the Kings Arms staff and if you arrive later in the morning, I am told they have an excellent lunch menu. More face to face chances will be at the postponed **Thrapston Charter Fair on Saturday 11th September** on Thrapston High Street. There will be the usual stalls so why not come along to support your U3A and our reviving High Street from 2pm till 5pm and hoping for a sunny day. Finally a face to face, person to person, human to human **PLAZA MEETING, on Friday 17th September doors open at 10.00 for a 10.30 start**, We have already made a start on preparations, The refreshment box has been examined and found wanting with dubious looking coffee, long past their sell by date biscuits that have been consigned to a recycling bin so fresh supplies are being purchased. We couldn't restart our Plaza Meetings with 'iffy' biscuits could we?

Just a reminder, in May 2020 a decision was made to re-introduce the £1 fee for attending these meetings as they are now treated as a group meeting, if you have friends who have put off joining and wish to be a visitor at this or future Member's Meetings in the Plaza they will have to pay £3 per visit (it's much cheaper to join!)

I look forward to meeting members in person at these events and onward into 2022 and was staggered to be told our U3A will have its 10th anniversary!

Stay safe, enjoy the sun when we get some, and see you soon.

Ian Byres Chairman



*Review of the 16th July 2021 Zoom Presentation by Paul Ollett
Steve Dimmer – Four Candles – Life of Ronnie Barker*



We welcomed Steve Dimmer back to Thrapston Group U3A for our July meeting with his presentation on script writer, actor and worthy contender for the title of Britain's best loved comedian of the current era, Ronnie William George Barker OBE.

Many have split their sides laughing at the famous TV sketch 'Four Candles' performed with his long term comic partner Ronnie Corbett which was set in an ironmonger's shop with dialogue containing misunderstandings and double meanings. This masterpiece still draws laughter from those who have seen it so many times before and was shown at the end of Steve's presentation.

Although Ronnie Barker spent much of his life in Oxfordshire this was in fact his adopted county as he was actually born in Bedfordshire on 25th September 1929. A plaque is fixed to the wall at his birthplace. His stay there was brief and he moved with his father to Cambridge at the age of two.

Ronnie was not a scholar and when he should have been studying he would often play truant visiting a local theatre and eventually and unsurprisingly left school with no qualifications. Described as a private and shy man, in his early years he moved to Oxford and at the age of 17 he passed an audition to join the Manchester Repertory Company who curiously were based in Aylesbury where he worked in stage management until his debut on the stage on 15th November 1948 in the comedy 'Charlie's Aunt'. A bronze statue of him can be seen today outside the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury.

Ronnie had by then realised his ambition was to make people laugh and through a chance meeting with theatrical director Peter Hall he was also encouraged to try straight roles and appeared in London's West End in plays by renowned authors Alan Ayckbourn and Tom Stoppard.

It was in comedy where he found his niche moving into radio in the cast of the popular light entertainment programme 'The Navy Lark' which was aired on Sunday lunch times between 1955 and 1977 running to 300 editions. He also featured in a couple of films in the period, 'Wonderful Things' and the comedy 'The Bargee' starring with Harry H Corbett of Steptoe and Son fame.

His big break into TV came in 1965 with the David Frost show 'The Frost Report' where his script writing talents were recognised, writing under the name of Gerald Wylie and where he met his later comedy partner Ronnie Corbett along with the likes of John Cleese and Sheila Stefall.

A string of TV shows spun out over the decades from these humble beginnings with many of them occupying prime time TV viewing such as The Two Ronnies, Porridge and Open All Hours among many others. Ronnie Barker was also in line for the Rigsby character in 'Rising Damp' but was unable to take the role due to pre-existing commitments.

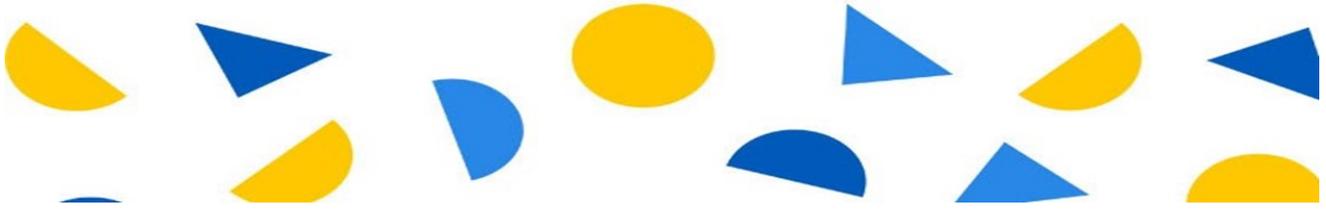
Ronnie and Joan Tubb were married in July 1957 and raised two boys and a girl. Charlotte became an actress and Ronnie wrote a one woman show called 'Mum' especially for her.

In 1987 at the age of 58 Ronnie decided to retire because he said he had run out of things to write about and he established an Antiques Shop in Chipping Norton that lasted for 10 years. In later life Ronnie was dogged by bad health perhaps related to his smoking habit which he finally quit in 1972 and in 1996 he underwent a heart bypass operation but sadly on 3rd October 2005 he passed away aged 76 years.

His funeral at Brackley crematorium is described as an occasion filled with humour and sadness with his coffin adorned with 4 candles, I'm sure he would have found that humorous to the very end.



Summer Social Get-together!



Drinks will be available

Friday August 20th, 10.30am to 12.00.

The King's Arms Courtyard, Thrapston

Please make sure you bring your u3a membership card, face masks and sanitisers etc

On Friday September 17th, our first Monthly Meeting since February 2020 will held at The Plaza in Thrapston.



Dave Moylan
Magic and Music Halls

A welcome return for us all to the Plaza for our Speaker Dave Moylan on 17th September.

Dave brings his one man Music Hall show that is a celebration of entertaining as it used to be. Having been a professional entertainer for much of his long life he brings us a varied humorous repertoire consisting of stand-up comedy, baffling magic tricks, comical songs with some hilarious routines.

Among the prestigious venues he has played he can list Warwick Castle also, on another occasion appearing at the Sidmouth International Festival in all cases registering accolades from his audiences.

There is no doubt it will be a wonderful celebration of a bygone age in the world of entertainment.



A Selection of photographs from the Photographic Group

Colin Bloor



Pat Trede



Neil Underwood



Paul Hamer



Paul Ollett



Update for Day Trips & The New Lunch Club



Days Out

Highclere Castle (£35) ~ 1st September. We now have a few places available for this trip.

St Albans Day Trip (£19) ~ Wednesday 27th October. Market day and free time to explore the city and the Cathedral. **Thursford Christmas Spectacular (£55)** ~ Tuesday 7th December. Unfortunately we are now fully booked for this show.

The New Lunch Club

I am happy to say that I currently have 32 members signed up for the New Lunch Club, and our first lunch is at the **Woolpack** on **Wednesday 11th August**.

I am now taking bookings for **The White Horse** in **Tilbrook** on **Wednesday 8th September** and **The Pheasant @ Keystone** on **Wednesday 13th October**. Both lunches are booked at 12:00 for 12:30. Please contact me on 01933 626 608 or 07736 445 658 to register your interest and to get a copy of the menus.

Meanwhile I have booked the Plaza for an inaugural meeting of the New Lunch Club on Monday 1st November, 10am to 11am. Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided, and I hope to see lots of you there. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting your suggestions for great lunchtime venues that you have enjoyed and discussing my ideas going forward. If you would enjoy convivial lunches with friends (both old & new), why not join us.

**If you are interested in any of these events please contact
Jean Mole on 07736 445 658 or 01933 626 608 to book your place.**

For all you keen gardeners—John Percy still has a supply of well rotted straw-free manure to give away. If you would like some please contact John on 01832 720130 or send an email to johnpercy1947@gmail.com to arrange collection near Aldwinckle. You will need to provide your bags, sacks or trailer.

A Few Lines from your Speaker Seeker



Oh yes! It's been tough alright since the pandemic broke out and the world went into lockdown. Stating the obvious, the repercussions were enormous and no-one could have foreseen the knock on effect that almost stopped us in our tracks.

Looking back through our booking records for Speakers I note that our last personal presentation was by Steve Pateman who brought his 'Kinky Boots' story to the Plaza on 21st February 2020. It was a very entertaining performance but who could have known what was awaiting us just around the corner?

Consequently the next five speakers were cancelled as the virus bit deeply into the community and denied us access to public meetings for our own safety, but on 17th July 2020 we took our first tentative steps into the cyber world with our first Zoom presentation by Ian Keable that was viewed by 19 participants.

After this we 'lost' the Summer Social event in August and the next Speaker Philip Caine who was scheduled for 18th September had to be cancelled although Philip Caine did come back by Zoom for our meeting on 21st May this year to relate his fascinating biography.

So we stuttered on with Speakers bringing their Zoom presentations for October, November and December into the New Year. Surely this cannot go on much longer? I genuinely believe that through poor participation by our members in these Zoom events that certain of the members were missing out on what their U3A were offering in return for their subscriptions. These have been difficult times and no less for the devoted members of the committee.

Into 2021 and the Speakers for the first seven months with all delivering their talks by zoom, and biased as I must be I reckon they all did a good job in helping to keep our show on the road as it were and enabling us to offer something at least to our loyal members. Now we have at last a chance to meet face to face (masks optional, not obligatory), at the Kings Arms, Thrapston for our Summer Social on 20th August and I hope to see as many fellow members there as the place will hold.

I can hardly contain my excitement that if the situation remains the same we can resume our 'proper' meetings at the Plaza on 17th September 2021 when Dave Moylan will entertain us with 'Magic & Music Halls' it is about time we had a right good belly laugh don't you think?

For the ongoing programme we have Deborah Brady in October with 'A Female in Fleet Street' and November Ian Addis with 'The Story of Charles Wicksteed' followed by a resurrected Christmas Social event that I am certain will surpass all previous similar events.

Thanks to all for your support and let us do our very best to raise our game.

Paul Ollett
Speaker Seeker

Old fashioned Corn Beef Pie

18 Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 2 12-Ounce Cans Corned Bee | 2 Cups Beef Stock |
| 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour | 1 tsp Black pepper, freshy ground |
| 5 generous tbsp Lard | 1 pinch Salt |
| 2 tbsp Butter, salted | 5 tbsp Butter, unsalted |
| 1 1/2 cups Carrots | 1 cup celery |
| 4 tsp Garlic | 3 tbsp fresh Parsley |
| 3 Red Potatoes | 2 cups Yellow Onion |
| 1 1/4 tsp English Mustar | 2 tsp Worcestershire Sauce ¹ |
| 1 tsp Distilled White Vinegar | 4 tbsp Water |



Method

- ◆ Put flour, butter, lard and salt into a mixing bowl. Rub the fats together with the flour until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the vinegar and 2 tab water then gradually add more water until pastry comes together. Place the pastry in cling film and chill for at least an hour
- ◆ Melt the butter over a medium high heat. Once the butter is bubbling add the onion, celery, carrot and garlic. Cook for 5 minutes until vegetables start to soften. Stir in the potatoes and cook for a further 5 minutes then mix in the crumbled corned beef.
- ◆ Pour in the beef stock, Worcester sauce, English mustard, black pepper and stir until combined. Cover and bring to a boil. Turn the heat down to a simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- ◆ Skim off any liquid hat hasn't evaporated then stir in the fresh chopped parsley.
- ◆ Chill for approximately 20 minutes. Lightly grease your pie dish.
- ◆ Roll out the pastry and line your pie dish trimming off any excess. Evenly spread the filling then brush the edges of the pastry with the beaten egg. Roll out the remaining pastry and press down the edges to seal. Trim off any extra. Crimp the edges and brush the top with the remaining beaten egg. Cut a few vents in the top.
- ◆ Bake for 45 minutes until the pastry is well browned. Cover with a piece of foil if browning too fast.

Recipe by Viv Tunstall

Membership Cards – Important Reminder

Please remember to have your membership card with you when you attend all meetings or outings.

The reverse of your card has space for contact details to be used in case of an emergency. Can you make sure that you have entered the name and telephone number of the person to be contacted.

You will also need to provide your membership number when booking an outing or buying tickets for an event.





Telephone numbers given in the newsletter are usually preceded by the Thrapston STD code—01832.
Any Raunds numbers (indicated by R) need the STD code 01933

Thrapston and District U3A Committee 2021/22

Chair: Ian Byrnes	chairmanthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Vice Chair: Sheila Underwood/Network Liaison	vicechair2thrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sue Campbell	treasurerthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Secretary: Wendy Davies	secretarythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Groups Co-ordinator: Anna Bond	groupsthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Membership Registrar: Pauline Dennison	membershipthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Speaker Seeker: Paul Ollett	speakersthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Tina Jones	editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Publicity & Facebook: Roger Davies	publicitythrapstonu3a@gmail.com
Plaza Welcome Manager: Viv Tunstall	plazawelcomethrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Off Committee Roles 2021/2022

<i>Access Advisor: Glyn Hill</i>	accessthrapstonu3a@gmail.com
<i>Social Committee: Viv Tunstall</i>	plazawelcomethrapstonu3@gmail.com
IT Operations/Website Manager: Neil Busby	websitethrapstonu3a@gmail.com
<i>Zoom "Plaza" Meeting Host: Neil Mathieson</i>	

A note from the Editor

This newsletter is published on behalf of the committee of the Thrapston and District U3A.
The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, or of the committee of the Thrapston and District U3A, or of the U3A Trust.

Please note that items for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach the Editor by the first Friday in the month.

Editor and publisher : Tina Jones - email: editorthrapstonu3a@gmail.com

Website : www.thrapstonu3a.co.uk where details of the committee and their roles can be found along with details of all the groups.

You can also join us on Facebook — Thrapston and District U3A



Thrapston & District U3A is a registered charity number 1179593